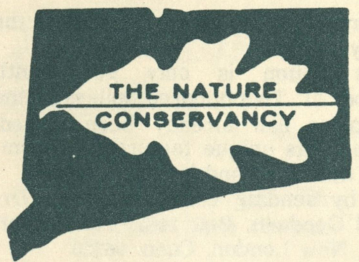


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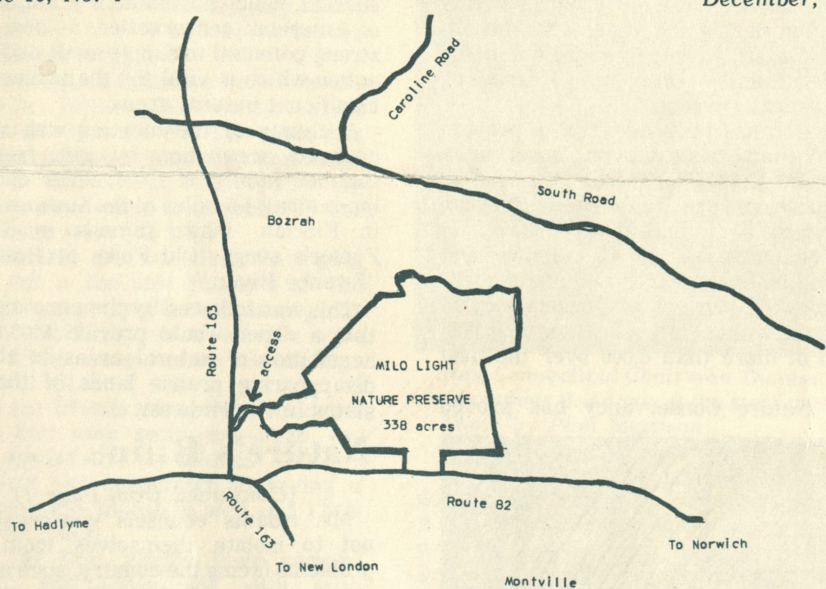


THE OAK LEAF

CONNECTICUT
CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Map of Milo Light Nature Preserve.

Alquists Give 338-acre Preserve

An important addition to the more than 5,000 acres of open space owned by The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut is the 338-acre gift by Mr. and Mrs. William Alquist of Colchester of the Milo Light Nature Preserve in Montville.

The new Preserve, between New London and Norwich, was named for Mrs. Alquist's first husband, an ardent conservationist who operated children's and adult camps for more than 50 years.

The tract is post-agricultural woodland, typical of much of Connecticut. Red and black oak dominate the woods, interspersed with tulip, cherry, ash, black birch and hickory, while drier slopes are white ash.

Swampy areas contain high bush blueberry, azalea and spicebush. A year-

round stream borders the property, bearing evidence of an old mill race.

More than 20 species of birds have been observed in the preserve, which will be open to the public with the establishment of a caretaker committee.

Attention Caretaker Committees

Long hair, short hair, kids care. A great many of them are concerned about the environment. Get local teen-agers to be members of your caretaker committees. They have the energy to be good helpers in patrolling our natural areas and in clean-up details.

For Christmas this year, why not a gift to the earth? To save our planet's surface life, the earth needs gifts just now. If the earth's life is saved, our world can continue its gifts to us.

With this thought in mind, no gift to others, whether family or friends, would do such double duty in the environmental crisis as a Nature Conservancy membership. It would give young people, longing to help in the crisis, a worthwhile field of activity. It would give adults, particularly landowners who love their land and want to preserve it as nature made it, a practical way of doing it. It would enlist young and old in the ranks of Conservancy —

Nature's Ruin Accelerating, Says Adams

Alexander B. Adams agrees with Pogo: "We have met the enemy and they are us."

Mr. Adams, a member of the national governing board of The Conservancy, spoke at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of "The Tragedy of Today's Conservation and What We Can Do About It."

Going back 20 years, he noted, inadequate parkland and pressure on our forests led conservationists to concentrate on education, and greatly increased their own numbers and public acceptance of their views.

As a result, the SST was halted, the Alaska pipeline delayed, new legislation has been passed and all candidates for political offices lend verbal support to conservation stands.

However, these triumphs do not measure up to our needs, and the results are disappointing, Mr. Adams said. The federal water pollution program is faltering, the air in our cities is dirtier, our wilderness more threatened and our environment is generally deteriorating at an accelerating rate.

Conservationists, said the speaker, have had to run faster to stand still. The cost of conservation skyrockets and yet remains one of our smallest national expenditures, accounting for one per cent of the total.

Although conservationists profiled are among the country's most affluent and best educated, they have failed to accomplish more because of the negative tools employed — hyperbole, looseness with facts and proliferation of agencies on a local and national level with little exchange of knowledge between them.

(Continued on Page 2)

A Gift to the Earth?

the organization whose total resources are spent in saving the land.

Requests for memberships may be sent to the Connecticut Chapter office on the Christmas Gift form printed on page 4. Recipients will be advised of your gift memberships. Types of membership are:

Annual Member	\$5.00
Sustaining Member	\$10.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Supporter	\$50.00
Guarantor	\$100.00
Life Member	\$300.00
Sponsor	\$500.00
Patron	\$1000.00

TNC Given 1000 Acres, \$500,000 To Save Prairie

by F. WALKER JOHNSON
Vice-Chairman, Conn. Chapter

A dozen members of the Connecticut Chapter attended the annual meeting of The Nature Conservancy at the Savannah Inn and Country Club Oct. 15-16 overlooking the extensive marshlands bordering the intercoastal canal and the barrier islands of the Georgia coast.

The Georgia hosts led the program with an impressive series of talks on the Georgia wetlands, covering 500,000 acres, and the progress that is being made in their protection. Most encouraging was assurance by state officials that "the marshlands of Georgia will be preserved."

It was announced that Conservancy now has saved 230,000 acres of land in 632 preserves from Maine to Hawaii. More than 41,000 acres in 118 projects were acquired during the past year. It is gratifying to note that 53 of these acquisitions were through outright gifts.



Sam's Woods, a wooded enclave in a developed area in Stamford, was the gift during the last year of Mrs. Miriam Bell. In honor of her late husband, she formalized its familiar neighborhood name. — Photo by Pam Mattison

Plea Made for Help To Save Border Lake

Help save a bog pond.

The Nature Conservancy national office has secured an option to buy 17 acres on Ell Pond, just across the Connecticut border in Rhode Island. Since that state owns the rest of the property, the entire one-quarter mile lake will then be protected.

The bog pond is created by large granite outcroppings and includes rhododendron thickets and white cedar groves. Part of

the Narragansett trail passes through the property.

TNC's option is only good until December 31. Two hundred dollars of the \$1,500 price has already been raised. Because of its unique features, it is important that Ell Pond be preserved.

Help by sending contributions to Dr. Richard Goodwin, Box 1445, Connecticut College, New London, Conn. 06320.

The commitment of The Conservancy toward science-oriented programs was intensified during the year, with the addition of a staff ecology advisor and the establishment of a Preserves Management Division.

Research has been initiated to provide comprehensive basic data on Conservancy preserves, including records of scientific and educational use. By the end of the year the Conservancy had made 108 of its preserves available to 41 colleges and universities for research and study.

Nationwide support of Conservancy is increasing with membership now at 28,000, a gain of more than 6,000 over the past year.

The Nature Conservancy has proved

itself with a history of effectiveness and success, which has made it a major force of American conservation. It now has a strong potential to supply swift and direct action which is vital for the protection of significant natural areas.

A climax of the meeting was the announced acquisition by gift from the Cumber family of 1,000 acres of scenic lands along 4.5 miles of the Suwanee River in Florida, made famous in Stephen Foster's song, "Old Folks at Home" or "Swanee River."

This was followed by the announcement that a donor would provide \$500,000 for acquisition of natural areas in the fast disappearing prairie lands of the plain states in the Midwest.

Nature's Ruin

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Adams counsels conservationists not to isolate themselves from other problems facing the country, such as those of urban life. He feels that, with more national leadership, the unique intellectual quality of the conservation movement will enable it to work more effectively. Priorities must be established and broad planning is needed to realize better results in the field.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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The Chapter Chairman Notes That . . .

by THOMAS A. GAINES

Chairman, Conn. Chapter

The first step toward saving that basalt escarpment, that duck-populated marsh, that pure forest stand or rock-walled pasture that you have been enjoying as you hike or drive by is to call or write The Nature Conservancy.

The Connecticut Chapter office is at 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, 06903, telephone 322-9148. Maybe this piece has been put on the market; maybe the owner has nobody to leave it to; maybe you heard that he or she wants to preserve it and doesn't know where to begin.

Land cannot be recycled. Salvaging what is left is the sole business of The Nature Conservancy. Its success depends upon the watchful eyes of all. We save some and lose some, but we like to hear about them all.

I urge our friends not to be intimidated by land that may seem too large, too small, apparently un-unique. TNC in Connecticut has cooperated in saving a one-quarter acre marsh as well as a 1,500-acre forest tract.

Many, at first glance have seemed hopeless, and some are. But with ingenuity, the difficult becomes possible, the possible probable.

How can it be done? Here are several methods. But let me caution you not to let this inventory circumscribe your thinking as there is always a way nobody has hit upon before:

1. The land's owner may wish to donate it or be persuaded to do so. There are sentimental as well as financial (tax) incentives for this, and it is the most common route for TNC's acquisitions.

2. The owner may desire to put a bargain price on the property which then entails some fund raising to make up the difference.

3. If enough interest can be stoked up for a special piece and the market price has to be paid, a statewide money raising effort augmenting a local campaign will have to be mounted. Federal or state open space funds are sometimes available.

4. Time, as the Bar would have it, is often of the essence. In these circumstances TNC can make a loan which will hold the property until the money is raised. It should be emphasized that TNC has no funds for outright purchase of property.

5. Sometimes a government body wants to save a piece but hasn't yet appropriated the money. TNC can use advance acquisition funds for acquiring the land for the town or state, who will take it over later and repay us.



New Connecticut Chairman Thomas A. Gaines (left) listens to national board member Alexander B. Adams at the state annual meeting in Mansfield Center on October 10. — Photo by Pam Mattison

6. TNC's custodial function generally does not include caring for improvements. A property with buildings can be accepted with the proviso that we may sell the improved portion if an allied conservation group cannot be found to take over tenancy and responsibility for the buildings.

7. To raise money, it is sometimes possible to arrange the sale of a few acres of frontage land in order to save the bulk of the property. This is the "half loaf" approach.

8. In the case of a large tract with several owners, a beginning can be made by acquiring a few pieces (preferably the most buildable) in checkerboard style to render development unfeasible — a

technique especially useful in the preservation of marshland.

9. In lieu of outright acquisition, we can often get an easement in which the owner keeps the land but gives up the right to develop it.

10. People who want to remain on the land but preserve it after they are gone may donate it now and retain life tenancy.

11. Some landowners bequest their property to TNC thus achieving the goal of keeping it natural while avoiding estate taxes.

Other methods will suggest themselves when we put our heads together. Let's do it.

Trustees Grateful To Retiring Officers

A resolution of thanks to Lawrence W. McFaddin "for his competent work as secretary of the Chapter for the past two years" has been adopted by our Board of Trustees. "The trustees extend hearty best wishes for success and happiness in your new endeavours overseas," the resolution added. He is taking a new position in London.

More thanks are due Mrs. G. William DeSousa (Margaret) for serving as secretary for the remainder of the McFaddin term. The Chapter's appreciation is also extended to retiring trustees Henry S. Beers of Glastonbury, Mrs. Richard Bowers of Old Mystic and Mrs. Agnew A. Talcott of Old Lyme.

De Sousa Receives Green Leaf Award

Each year The Nature Conservancy recognizes the efforts of its volunteer members through presentation of the Green Leaf Award, symbolized by a green and gold lapel pin.

At the national convention, G. William DeSousa, having completed his second and final year as chairman of the Connecticut Chapter, was awarded the Green Leaf:

"In grateful recognition of his intensive volunteer efforts toward achieving the Conservancy's objectives within Connecticut and for his work toward the larger goals of the cause for a better environment. Under Mr. De Sousa's leadership, the Connecticut Chapter has become one of the Conservancy's most active volunteer units, completing 28 projects in 1970 alone."

The Nature Conservancy, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford, Conn., 06903
Please send gift memberships to following: Type Membership

1. Name: _____ (see page one)

Address: _____

2. Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Name: _____

Address: _____

(Please attach sheet for additional names, addresses, types of membership.

I wish to make a Christmas gift to the Connecticut Chapter for its work in saving land.

Your name: _____ \$(total) _____

Address: _____

Your gift memberships provide recipients with
Conservancy's Quarterly News and The Oak Leaf

Chapter Change Of Command

At the annual election, Thomas A. Gaines of Stamford became the new state chairman, replacing G. William De Sousa of Westport, who had served the maximum two years.

Mr. Gaines had previously served as the state organization's vice-chairman and secretary.

F. Walker Johnson of Greenwich is now vice-chairman, bringing expertise in geology to his new role. Mrs. Howard Hill of Westport was elected secretary. She and her husband are enthusiastic hikers and campers. Garrett Nevius continues as treasurer.

Trustees newly elected are Elmer Madsen of Bristol, who is also a trustee of the H.C. Barnes Nature Center and Robert G. Riedeman of Kent, an ecology teacher at the Kent School for Boys.

Continuing in trustee status are Robert Kunz of Mystic, Dana Waring of Glastonbury, Dr. Dorothy C. Goodwin of Storrs, Dr. Richard Goodwin of New London, and the two past chairmen, Charles A. Clark of Greenwich and G. William De Sousa of Westport.

Continuing appointments are Dr. William Niering, chairman of the scientific committee; Miss Georgia Hundley, membership secretary; Philip Smith, tax advisor; Newell Rogers, editor of The Oak Leaf and Mrs. Thomas Gaines, publicity chairman.

48 . . . Count 'Em . . . 48

Connecticut has 48 Life Members of The Nature Conservancy. Added to the roster in the first half of 1971 were:

William J. Alford, Norfolk
Ernest Brooks, Jr., New Canaan
Mrs. W.G. Bryant, Southport
John E. Ellsworth, Simsbury
Frederick R. Jeffrey, Greenwich
Mrs. Mathilde C. Moran, Rowayton
Mrs. Willard S. Simpkins, Stamford
Mrs. Frances M. Webb, Riverside
Mrs. Simpkins is also a Patron of the Conservancy.

Joshua Tracts Take Us Back to Ice Age

The Joshua Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, which was the host to the annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter on Oct. 10, at Mansfield Center, is the owner of two spectacular nature tracts which take man straight back to the Ice Age.

One is Wolf Rock, a great glacial boulder, perched on the lip of a sheer, 40-foot cliff. Wolves are believed to have inhabited the tract. Mansfield and other towns levied a special wolf bounty in 1731.

The second 22-acre tract is in the heart of Mansfield Center. The Bradley-Buchanan Woods, contains a glacial pitted kame terrace covering about a fourth of the tract. Deep kettle holes scoured out by the ice reach the water table, except in very dry weather creating quiet ponds of extraordinary beauty.

14 New Land Gifts, 5 Tracts Purchased

At the chapter's annual meeting, retiring chairman G. William De Sousa reviewed land acquisitions of the past year:

COMPLETED LAND PURCHASE

PROJECTS

John Sargent Woodland, Greenwich
Cottrell Marsh, Stonington
Wolfpit Mountain, Bridgewater
Lake Lillinonah, Bridgewater
Peterson Gorge, Ridgefield

GIFTS OF LAND

Fraser Honey Hill Preserve
Chauncy Keep Hubbard Preserve
Squirrel Run Additions (2)
Asproom Mountain Preserve
Delafield Cove
Duck Pond Hill Addition
Greenwich Cove Marshes Additions (2)
Juniper Hill Additions
Still Pond Additions (2)
Thomas Fletcher Oakes Preserve
Sam's Woods
Meadow Woods Addition
Griswold Marsh
Milo Light Nature Preserve



Front door welcomes you to main building at Bartlett Arboretum, one corner of which houses the state offices of TNC. The UConn property, 151 Brookdale Road, off High Ridge Road in Stamford, is open to the public. It has marked trails including a charming log walk through a swamp. — Photo by Pam Mattison